

## FERC TECHNICAL REPORT ON LOSS ESTIMATION

## MARGINAL LOSS CALCULATIONS FOR THE DCOPF

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**Abstract**

The purpose of this paper is to explain some aspects of including a marginal line loss approximation in the DCOPF. The DCOPF optimizes electric generator dispatch using simplified power flow physics. Since the standard assumptions in the DCOPF include a lossless network, a number of modifications have to be added to the model. Calculating marginal losses allows the DCOPF to optimize the location of power generation, so that generators that are closer to demand centers are relatively cheaper than remote generation. The problem formulations discussed in this paper will simplify many aspects of practical electric dispatch implementations in use today, but will include sufficient detail to demonstrate a few points with regard to the handling of losses.

First, we look at the mathematics that go into approximating marginal line losses in the DCOPF and how different methods effect LMP pricing. The methodology explained in this paper begins with a feasible AC power flow solution, called the base point or operating point. This base point includes information about network power flows and bus voltages that affect the calculation for marginal line losses. We show that when these aspects are ignored, prices no longer reflect the network's physics.

Various DCOPF model formulations also affect the accuracy of the optimal solution's physics. Selecting a reference bus simplifies calculations in the DCOPF. We compare a few common formulations of the DCOPF and show that one of these formulations can distort flows and results in a violation of Kirchoff's Current Law at the reference bus. Correcting this formulation results in a model with optimal solutions that are independent of the reference bus.

Additionally, we propose a novel method for updating the loss approximation without solving for a new base point. If the update procedure converges, then it gives a solution to a nonlinear problem. However this problem is also nonconvex, and therefore the update procedure is not guaranteed to converge. Results show good convergence properties on some networks.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

All independent system operators (ISOs) in the US implement marginal cost pricing [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7] in which market participants pay or receive the cost of delivering the next unit of power at their node in the network. The marginal cost pricing approach is economically efficient in a competitive market because the price signal to each node reflects the increase in system cost required to serve the next unit of demand. Marginal loss prices are a component of marginal pricing and reflect the portion of the change in cost that is due to a change in system line losses. The locational marginal price (LMP) is the primary economic signal in ISO markets and decomposes into the marginal loss component, marginal congestion component, and marginal energy component.

Approximations within the market dispatch model differ from the network physics. The approximations result in prices that do not reflect physical measurements, which can cause problems in the market [8, 9, 10, 11]. We will focus on making the modeling approximation as close as possible to the actual physics because this will ensure that prices accurately reflect the marginal cost of electricity.

The magnitude of loss payments also justifies a closer look at current practices. In PJM in 2014, total marginal loss costs were \$1.5 billion, compared to \$1.9 billion in total congestion costs [12].

The general name for the dispatch problem that ISOs face is the optimal power flow (OPF). The AC Optimal Power Flow (ACOPF) takes account of alternating current's mathematical complexities. However, the ACOPF is a large scale, nonlinear, nonconvex optimization problem and requires more time to solve using existing methods than current practice allows [13]. Dispatch

models must solve quickly in order to be practical in day-ahead and real-time markets (DAM and RTM), and today’s ISOs solve linear programming models for this reason. The DCOPF is named a bit awkwardly because it is not modeling “direct current” power, but is really a linearization and approximation of the ACOPF [14].

The DCOPF is typically implemented with linear power transfer or generation shift factors which relate power generation and demand to power transfers across transmission lines in the network. We call this implementation the distribution factor model. The sensitivities in the model can be linearized inputs from a feasible AC power flow. A loss approximation is also incorporated into the market software’s economic dispatch. Typically, the approximation is based on historical ratios or an AC power flow solution that predict load flow in the time period being dispatched. Since losses are approximately quadratic, marginal losses are about twice the average losses, so excess loss revenues are collected and returned to demand based on load ratios in both the DAM and RTM.

An alternative to the distribution model approach is called the “ $B\Theta$ ” model and also results in a linear model. However, the  $B\Theta$  model takes a few orders of magnitude longer to solve and therefore is not typically used for clearing electricity markets. This paper will focus on the distribution factor model version of the DCOPF.

It is important to precisely study the loss approximation so that the market optimization will model the actual network physics as closely as possible. For example, poor loss modeling can be exploited by financial market participants who will place bids to correct for a poor loss approximation. Poor loss estimation can be caused from load forecast bias or can be inherent to the power flow and loss estimate methodology, and a consistent over or under-estimation between day ahead and real time marginal loss components is all that is needed for financial market participants to place bids based on the mis-estimation. These bids can correct the mis-estimation by aiding price convergence, but this would be unnecessary if the market cleared off of a better loss approximation. A better solution may be for the market software to have a good loss approximation from the outset. MISO changed its loss modeling to limit such behavior, as prompted by its market monitor [8].

One result of implementing marginal loss pricing is that ISOs will collect more revenue for line losses than what is remunerated to generators. The over-collection must be repaid with a rebate to market participants [9, 10]. The methodology to determine the rebate can have significant effects. For example, a 2010 CAISO study showed that two alternative loss allocation methodologies would change regional allocations by \$18.8 million and \$13.8 million compared to the filed methodology [15]. Similarly, marginal loss rebate policies can also be exploited by market participants [11, 16]. In addition to accurate prices, allocation methodologies are also potentially important but will not be discussed further in this paper.

Marginal loss calculations in the DCOPF are sensitive to many things, including the input data, the approximation approach, and the selection of a reference bus or slack bus. We use the terms reference bus and slack bus interchangeably. Input data may include physical properties of the transmission network and perhaps voltage angles and magnitudes. For example, a feasible AC power flow can be used to supply the input data that defines the base point from which the dispatch model optimizes.

The distribution factor model requires the selection of a reference bus which is assumed to be the source (or sink) of all power consumed (or produced). Power flows to and from the reference bus are “summed” using the superposition principle so that the effect of the reference bus gets canceled out in a lossless model. Although the reference bus simplifies the mathematics, its inclusion in the model can distort power flows when line losses are considered.

Loss factors define the sensitivity of system losses to power injections or withdrawals at a specified

bus on the network. They can be positive or negative. When the loss factor at a bus is positive, a small injection at that node will result in a small increase in system losses. Loads pay a lower price because system losses are decreased by a small increase in demand. Generators receive a lower price because system losses are increased by a small increase in production. On the other hand, when the loss factor at a bus is negative, a small injection will result in a small decrease in system losses. Loads pay a higher price because system losses are increased by a small increase in demand. Generators receive a higher price because system losses are decreased by a small increase in production. The change in system losses is relative to delivering power to the reference bus. By definition, the loss factor at the reference bus is zero.

The rest of the paper is as follows. Section 1.1 will provide a more detailed overview of how marginal losses are estimated in each of the US ISOs, and an academic literature review is included in Section 1.2. Section 1.3 will describe the conventions, parameters, sets and variables to be used in the proceeding sections. Section 2.1 derives the classical DC power flow approximation and is followed in Section 2.2 by a similar derivation for a linearized approximation of line losses based on marginal analysis of the AC power flow equations. Section 2.3 gives a simpler alternative for line losses based on a quadratic approximation, and Section 3 formulates the linear DCOPF model that is commonly used in practice. Section 3.1 gives a different formulation of the DCOPF with losses that is commonly used but results in a violation of Kirchoff's Current Law. An example problem is presented in Section 4 to compare the LMPs that result from three different DCOPF formulations. Section 5 presents a method for updating loss factors and demonstrates the method on a selection of test cases. Section 6 concludes the paper and is followed by references.

## 1.1 CURRENT PRACTICES

Typical dispatch models assume that losses are linearized around a base point solution. This base point may be taken from the state estimator, AC power flow analysis, or the results of a dispatch optimization. The section describes each ISO's processes for estimating losses.

California ISO (CAISO) determines marginal loss factors by linearizing around an AC power flow solution base point [17]. The AC power flow is calculated throughout iterations of the Security Constrained Unit Commitment (SCUC) process. System losses are calculated at after each AC power flow. In addition, loss sensitivities and shift factors are calculated from linearizing around the AC power flow solution then fed into the SCUC and SCED optimization models. In the Integrated Forward Market (IFM) piece of CAISO's DAM, SCUC uses generation and demand bids to determine power flows. The IFM is followed by Reliability Unit Commitment (RUC) which uses generation bids and a load forecast.

Although Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) uses LMPs, the LMPs only include components for energy and congestion [18]. In the absence of transmission congestion, LMPs are uniform. Losses are added during the settlement process and are based on linear interpolation or extrapolation of forecasted on-peak and off-peak transmission loss factors [19].

ISO-New England (ISO-NE) uses loss factors to calculate LMPs every hour in the DAM and every five minutes in the RTM. The state estimator provides information regarding transmission losses for both Day-Ahead and Real-Time LMPs. ISO-NE bases its DAM on the expected transmission configuration and the bids and offers from market participants. The RTM clears off information from the state estimator [20].

In Midcontinent ISO (MISO), the Energy Management System (EMS) state estimator calculates the total system losses using a combination of an AC power flow and a statistical model based on system measurements [21]. In real time, loss factors can be calculated directly from the state estimator, and MISO monitors the calculated real-time loss factors to make sure these are adequate

for settlement purposes. For day ahead, MISO uses recent solutions from the state estimator with similar load and wind characteristics as day ahead interval.

The New York ISO (NYISO) uses marginal loss factors that reflect expected scheduled and unscheduled power flows on the network [22]. In the DAM, expected unscheduled power flows are generally determined using a 30-day moving average of on and off-peak flows. Unscheduled power flows in the RTM are based on current power flows. NYISO calculates LMPs multiple times for each time period. The first set of LMPs settle the DAM and are taken from unit commitment and dispatch optimization. The final LMPs settle the RTM and are taken from a dispatch optimization.

Prior to implementing marginal loss pricing, PJM used generic on-peak and off-peak loss factors, adding 3% and 2.5% to on and off peak demands, respectively. Because loss factors were not part of the economic dispatch, the result was less than optimal [23]. PJM now calculates loss factors in the DAM and RTM based on transmission characteristics, generation levels and load levels, and state estimator data [6].

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) operates its DAM and RTM with marginal loss pricing. In the RTM, losses are estimated using the current state estimator solution. SPP estimates future operating conditions and performs a power flow study to calculate marginal losses for the DAM [7].

The loss factor methodologies of each ISO are summarized in Table 1.1.

## 1.2 LITERATURE REVIEW

The DCOPF has long been of interest to academic research, and the following section will review a small sample of academic work on the subject. DCOPF is a subset of the more generic optimal power flow (OPF) problem, which is a large-scale, nonlinear, nonconvex problem that is exceptionally difficult to solve. This problem was first formalized as an optimization problem by Carpentier in 1962 [24]. This sparked interest in formulations for electricity markets [25].

Many surveys are out there which give a much more comprehensive review of the various methods for solving OPF problems [26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31]. The surveys serve a dual purpose to anyone interested in mathematical optimization because of their close tracking of mathematical programming developments. In particular, linear programming, quadratic programming, generalized reduced gradient, Newton's method, and conjugate gradient were all common approaches through the 1980s and 1990s. More recently, semidefinite programming [32, 33, 34, 35] and second order conic programming [36] have shown promising results. Many of the recent advances focus on solving the ACOPF problem [13, 37], but the linear DCOPF problem remains the standard problem for electric dispatch applications [38, 39].

Computational performance has always been the main advantage of using linear OPF models, as well as its easy integration with standard economic theory [25]. The linear OPF was first formulated and solved by Wells in 1968 [40], which reports solution times of a few minutes on power networks consisting of 100 nodes. This work was put into a more familiar form in the late 1970s thanks to the pioneering work of Stott [41]. The relative success of linearized OPFs was noted in [42], which encouraged further use of the DCOPF because of its computational advantages and relative accuracy. Reference [14] provides some of the most detailed analysis of current DCOPF approximation techniques and pays particular interest to the implications of the OPF's accuracy in electricity markets, which is further studied in [38, 39, 43].

Various new approaches to the DCOPF remain an active area of research. The interested reader can go to reference [44] for a similar ACOPF linearization approach as will be taken in this paper. Iterative approaches to the DCOPF in [45, 46] have shown some success. The DCOPF is certainly not restricted to real time dispatch, as it is also an important aspect in transmission expansion planning [47, 48] among many other applications that are not enumerated here. Studies continue

ISO	Used in Dispatch	Base Point (DAM)	Base Point (RTM)	Update Frequency
CAISO	Yes	SCUC AC power flow with generation and demand bids or load forecast	SCUC AC power flow with initial data from state estimator	Every hour in DAM and every fifteen minutes in RTM
ERCOT	No	Interpolation during settlement process	Interpolation during settlement process	N/A
ISO-NE	Yes	State estimator solution with estimated future operating conditions	Current state estimator solution	Every hour in DAM and every five minutes in RTM
MISO	Yes	Recent state estimator solutions with similar demand and wind characteristics	Current state estimator solution	Monitored in real time, with updates possible up to every minute
NYISO	Yes	SCUC AC power flow using a 30-day moving average of on and off peak power flows	SCUC AC power flow	During intermediate dispatch runs between DAM clearing and RTM clearing
PJM	Yes	State estimator solution with estimated future operating conditions	Current state estimator solution	Every hour in DAM and every five minutes in RTM
SPP	Yes	AC power flow after RUC with estimated future operating conditions	Current state estimator solution	Every hour in DAM and every five minutes in RTM

Table 1.1: ISO loss factor methodologies.

to show that the DCOPF is a close approximation of MW power flows[38, 39], despite the exclusion of important reactive power and voltage considerations [49, 50].

LMP pricing is one of the most important DCOPF applications. A common problem with many DCOPF formulations is the solution’s dependence on the selection of a reference bus. Three-node examples are provided in [51] which compare the LMPs from various formulations. The formulation used in this paper was proven to give results that are independent of the reference bus through the use of loss distribution factors used in the transmission constraint [52]. Fictitious nodal demands are another method of formulating DCOPF models with the reference bus independence property [53]. Rapid iterative convergence for these models was demonstrated on small networks in [46, 54].

### 1.3 NOTATIONAL CONVENTIONS

The following sections will present various equations and optimization problems concerning optimal power flow. To make this as readable as possible, we will make an honest effort to adhere to the

following conventions. Unfortunately there are some places where historical precedent supersedes our best efforts.

Scalars, vectors, and matrices will all follow a general convention. Scalars will be lowercase ( $x$ ), vectors will be uppercase ( $X$ ), and matrices will be bolded uppercase ( $\mathbf{X}$ ). Elements of vectors will be noted with a subscript ( $x_n$ ), and we may also subscript some scalars to denote separate values ( $x_n^p, x_n^g$ ). Vectors are generally column vectors, and may be differentiated using subscripts in some cases ( $X_p, X_g$ ). Matrix transpose is denoted by the symbol  $^\top$ .

Parameters and variables are more difficult to separate by a convention. Instead, this difference will be noted immediately after the parameter or variable is introduced. They are also listed as parameters or variables in the nomenclature list at the end of this section for easy reference. Fixed variables are denoted by an overline ( $\bar{x}$ ) and optimal solutions are denoted by an asterisk ( $x^*$ ). Dual variables will use the Greek alphabet, although one exception to this rule is  $\theta$  and  $\phi$ , which are used for voltage angles.

Sets names are in calligraphic font ( $\mathcal{N}$ ). We have simplified the notation a bit by making no distinction between generator and node indices, i.e., the power injection at each node is equal to the sum of injections from all generators at that node. Therefore, the formulations in this paper may require some additional bookkeeping to be implemented in an actual optimization program.

## NOMENCLATURE

### Dual Variables

$\alpha_{\min}, \alpha_{\max}$	Dual variables to the minimum and maximum generation output constraints.
$\Lambda$	Vector of locational marginal prices (LMPs).
$\lambda$	Dual variable to the power balance constraint.
$\mu$	Dual variable to the transmission constraint.
$\sigma$	Dual variable to the loss function constraint.

### Functions

$\circ$	Hadamard product.
$^\top$	Matrix or vector transpose.
$c(\cdot)$	Linear or convex cost function.

### Indices

$h$	Iteration index
$i, j, n$	Nodes or bus indices, $i, j, n \in \mathcal{N}$ .
$k$	Transmission line index, $k \in \mathcal{K}$ .

### Parameters

$\ell^0$	Line loss function constant.
$\eta_k$	Loss approximation range translation.

$\gamma_k$	Loss approximation second-order coefficient.
$\mathbf{1}$	Vector of ones.
$\mathbf{A}$	Network incidence matrix.
$\mathbf{B}_d$	Diagonal branch susceptance matrix with elements $b_{ijk}$ for branch $k$ from node $i$ to $j$ .
$\mathbf{B}$	Nodal susceptance matrix.
$\mathbf{G}_s$	Diagonal shunt conductance matrix with elements $g_i^{sh}$ for bus $i$ .
$\mathbf{I}$	Identity matrix.
$\mathbf{L}$	Marginal loss matrix.
$\mathbf{S}$	Marginal branch flow matrix.
$\mathbf{T}$	Transmission sensitivity matrix with elements $t_{(ijk,n)}$ (PTDFs).
$\Phi$	Transformer phase angle change vector with elements $\phi_{ijk}$ for branch $k$ from node $i$ to $j$ .
$\xi_k$	Loss approximation domain translation.
$a_{ijk}$	Tap transformer turns ratio from node $i$ to $j$ on branch $k$ .
$b_{ijk}$	Branch susceptance from node $i$ to $j$ on branch $k$ .
$g_{ijk}$	Branch conductance from node $i$ to $j$ on branch $k$ .
$LF$	Loss factor vector with elements $\ell f_i$ .
$P_d$	Power demand vector with elements $p_i^d$ .
$P_{\min}, P_{\max}$	Minimum and maximum generator output vectors.
$r_k$	Resistance on branch $k$ .
$T_{\max}$	Transmission branch power flow limit vector.
$u_i(n)$	Unit injection equal to 1 if $i = n$ or zero otherwise.
$W$	Weighting vector with elements $w_i$ .
$x_k$	Reactance on branch $k$ .
<b>Sets</b>	
$\mathcal{K}$	Set of transmission lines, $\{1, \dots, K\}$ .
$\mathcal{N}$	Set of nodes or buses, $\{1, \dots, N\}$ .
<b>Variables</b>	
$\Delta\Theta$	Marginal voltage angle vector.
$\Delta P$	Marginal real power injection vector.



$\Delta V$	Vector of marginal change in voltage magnitude.
$\Delta \mathcal{L}$	Marginal line loss vector.
$\ell$	Total network real power losses.
$\ell_k$	Line losses on branch $k$ .
$\Delta \Theta$	Voltage angle sensitivity matrix.
$\Theta$	Voltage angle vector with elements $\theta_i$ for node $i$ .
$P$	Net real power injection vector with elements $p_i$ for node $i$ .
$P_g$	Power generation injection vector with elements $p_i^g$ for generators at node $i$ .
$P_t$	Power flow vector with elements $p_{ijk}$ for branch $k$ from node $i$ to $j$ .
$V$	Voltage magnitude vector with elements $v_i$ for node $i$ .
$y$	Slack variable for a reference bus withdrawal.

## 2 POWER FLOW DERIVATIONS

The purpose of this section is to develop an understanding of the DCOPF model used by ISOs. We formulate the traditional DF model with losses and provide a method to calculate loss factors as a numerical derivative. We first apply three assumptions to derive the DC power flow approximation from nonlinear AC power flow equations. Then a numerical procedure to calculate loss factors is provided. This numerical procedure makes use of nonlinear AC power flow equations and is representative of current practices. The section concludes by presenting an analytic line loss approximation that is useful for sequential linear programming. The analytic approximation follows from the same three assumptions used to derive the DC power flow approximation, which provides an acceptable approximation of AC power flow in most applications. Importantly, this procedure can be performed quickly because it does not require solving any nonlinear equations.

We begin with the AC real power flow equations for a single branch and network balancing constraints for each node. Notationally, a branch  $k \in \mathcal{K}$  connects nodes  $i$  and  $j \in \mathcal{N}$ , and power flow  $p_{ijk}$  from  $i$  to  $j$  and  $p_{jik}$  from  $j$  to  $i$  are as follows:

$$p_{ijk} = g_{ijk} \frac{v_i^2}{a_{ijk}^2} - \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} (g_{ijk} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j - \phi_{ijk}) + b_{ijk} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j - \phi_{ijk})), \quad (1)$$

$$p_{jik} = g_{ijk} v_j^2 - \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} (g_{ijk} \cos(\theta_j - \theta_i + \phi_{ijk}) + b_{ijk} \sin(\theta_j - \theta_i + \phi_{ijk})), \quad (2)$$

where the parameters are the branch conductance  $g_{ijk}$ , branch susceptance  $b_{ijk}$ , tap transformer turns ratio  $a_{ijk}$ , transformer phase angle change  $\phi_{ijk}$ , and the variables are the voltage magnitude  $v_i$  and voltage angle  $\theta_i$ .

Power flow  $p_{ijk}$  is assumed to be the power flowing out of node  $i$  from line  $k$ , then similarly  $-p_{jik}$  is the amount flowing into node  $j$  from line  $k$ . The amount of power generated minus the amount consumed at a node must be equal to the amount flowing out of its adjacent transmission lines. Losses in the shunt conductance,  $g_i^{sh}$ , are also accounted for. We simplify power generation (an injection) and consumption (a withdrawal) for now using the net injection  $p_i$  at node  $i \in \mathcal{N}$ , which

by convention is positive for a net injection and negative for a net withdrawal. For real power, the network balance equations are:

$$p_i = \sum_k p_{ijk} + v_i^2 g_i^{sh}, \forall i \in \mathcal{N}. \quad (3)$$

Or, in matrix form:

$$P = \mathbf{A}P_t + \mathbf{G}_s(V \circ V), \quad (4)$$

where  $\mathbf{A}$  is an  $(N \times K)$  network incidence equal to 1 for branch  $k$  assumed to flow into node  $i$ ,  $-1$  if the branch is assumed to flow out of node  $i$ , and 0 if branch  $k$  is not connected to node  $i$ ,  $P_t$  is a vector of transmission flows,  $\mathbf{G}_s$  is an  $N \times N$  diagonal matrix of shunt conductances,  $V$  is a vector of nodal voltage magnitudes, and  $\circ$  is the element-by-element (or Hadamard) product.

## 2.1 DC POWER FLOW

Many industry applications rely on DC power flow approximations. DC power flow equations are preferable in many instances because they are linear and can be solved quickly. Conversely, AC power flow equations model the system more accurately, but are nonlinear and nonconvex. It can even be difficult to find a feasible solution to AC power flow equations in a large scale system such as one of the main US power grids. Therefore, the common DC power flow approximation makes three main assumptions:

- Voltage is close to one per unit (p.u.) at all buses,
- Voltage angle differences are small, i.e.,  $\sin(\theta) \approx 0$  and  $\cos(\theta) \approx 1$ ,
- Line resistance is negligible compared to reactance, i.e.,  $r_k \ll x_k$  and therefore  $g_{ijk} \ll b_{ijk}$ .

Under these assumptions, AC power flow equations [13] in polar form will reduce to

$$\begin{aligned} p_{ijk} &= g_{ijk} \frac{v_i^2}{a_{ijk}^2} - \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} (g_{ijk} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j - \phi_{ijk}) + b_{ijk} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j - \phi_{ijk})) \\ &= g_{ijk} - (g_{ijk} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j - \phi_{ijk}) + b_{ijk} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j - \phi_{ijk})) \\ &= g_{ijk} - (g_{ijk} + b_{ijk}(\theta_i - \theta_j - \phi_{ijk})) \\ &= -\frac{1}{x_{ijk}}(\theta_i - \theta_j - \phi_{ijk}). \end{aligned}$$

Or, in matrix form:

$$P_t = \mathbf{B}_d (\mathbf{A}^\top \Theta + \Phi), \quad (5)$$

where  $\mathbf{B}_d$  is a  $(K \times K)$  diagonal matrix with values  $-b_{ijk}$ ,  $\mathbf{A}$  is the network incidence matrix,  $\Theta$  is an  $(N \times 1)$  vector of nodal voltage angles, and  $\Phi$  is a  $K \times 1$  of transformer phase angle changes. This follows the derivations in reference [55].

To reduce solution time in practice, the transmission constraint (5) can be simplified using power transfer distribution factors (PTDFs), also called shift factors or generation shift factors. We use these terms interchangeably. The PTDF is the sensitivity of change in real power flow on a particular line to the change in power injected at a particular bus. The injection (or withdrawal) is

assumed to be withdrawn (or injected) at the reference bus. The PTDFs form a  $K \times N$  sensitivity matrix  $\mathbf{T}$  with elements  $t_{(ijk,n)}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} t_{(ijk,n)} &= \frac{dp_{ijk}}{dp_i} \\ &= \frac{d}{dp_i}(-b_{ijk}(\theta_i - \theta_j - \phi_{ijk})) \\ &= -b_{ijk} \left( \frac{d\theta_i}{dp_i} - \frac{d\theta_j}{dp_i} \right). \end{aligned}$$

It is common to define an  $N \times N$  nodal susceptance matrix.

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}_d\mathbf{A}^\top$$

Now we introduce an  $N \times N$  matrix  $[\mathbf{I} - W\mathbf{1}^\top]$ , whose  $n^{th}$  column pairs a unit injection at node  $n$  with a reference bus withdrawal.  $\mathbf{I}$  is the identity matrix. Reference bus withdrawals are defined by a weighting vector  $W$  that sums to one. The  $n^{th}$  column of matrix  $\Delta\Theta$  represents the marginal change in bus voltage angles corresponding to the injections and withdrawals in the  $n^{th}$  column of  $[\mathbf{I} - W\mathbf{1}^\top]$ .

$$[\mathbf{I} - W\mathbf{1}^\top] = \mathbf{B}\Delta\Theta.$$

Then we can construct the PTDF matrix:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{T} &= -\mathbf{B}_d\mathbf{A}^\top\Delta\Theta \\ &= -\mathbf{B}_d\mathbf{A}^\top\mathbf{B}^{-1}[\mathbf{I} - W\mathbf{1}^\top] \end{aligned}$$

One problem is that the matrix  $\mathbf{B}$  is singular and cannot be inverted so easily. In practice, the row and column corresponding to the reference bus are removed so that the matrix will be invertible. The PTDF at the reference bus is zero by definition.

This is equivalent to solving the following set of  $N$  equations  $N$  times:

$$u_i(n) - w_i = \sum_k b_{ijk}(\theta_i - \theta_j), \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{N}, \quad (6)$$

with  $n = \{1, \dots, N\}$ , where  $u_i(n)$  is equal to 1 if  $i = n$  or zero otherwise, and  $w_i$  is the  $i^{th}$  element of the weight vector  $W$ .

## 2.2 MARGINAL LINE LOSSES

Line losses  $\ell_k$  across branch  $k$  are equal to the difference between the amount leaving node  $i$  and flowing into node  $j$ . Since real power flow  $p_{ijk}$  is assumed to be the power flowing out of node  $i$  from line  $k$ , and similarly  $-p_{jik}$  is the amount flowing into node  $j$  from line  $k$ , losses are simply the sum of  $p_{ijk}$  and  $p_{jik}$ :

$$\ell_k = p_{ijk} + p_{jik} = g_{ijk} \left( \frac{v_i^2}{a_{ijk}^2} + v_j^2 - 2 \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j - \phi_{ijk}) \right) \quad (7)$$

To linearize (7), let  $\ell_k = \ell_k(x)$ , where  $x = [\theta_i, \theta_j, v_i, v_j]$ . Assuming a small distance  $\Delta x$  from some base point  $\bar{x}$ , the first order Taylor series of  $\ell(x)$  at  $x = \bar{x} + \Delta x = [\bar{\theta}_i, \bar{\theta}_j, \bar{v}_i, \bar{v}_j] + [\Delta\theta_i, \Delta\theta_j, \Delta v_i, \Delta v_j]$  is:

$$\begin{aligned}\ell_k(\bar{x} + \Delta x) &= \ell_k(\bar{x}) + \nabla \ell_k(\bar{x}) \Delta x \\ &= \ell_k(\bar{x}) + \frac{\partial \ell_k}{\partial \theta_i} \Delta \theta_i + \frac{\partial \ell_k}{\partial \theta_j} \Delta \theta_j + \frac{\partial \ell_k}{\partial v_i} \Delta v_i + \frac{\partial \ell_k}{\partial v_j} \Delta v_j.\end{aligned}\quad (8)$$

Instead of  $v_i$  and  $\theta_i$ , it would be helpful to have  $\ell_k$  as a function of the control variables  $p_n$ . A physical intuition of AC power systems is that voltage angles are tightly coupled with real power and voltage magnitudes with reactive power, and therefore we will assume that voltages do not change as a function of  $p_n$ . Accordingly, we have  $\Delta \theta_i = \frac{d\theta_i}{dp_n} \Delta p_n$  and  $\Delta v_i = \frac{dv_i}{dp_n} \Delta p_n = 0$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\ell_k(\bar{P} + \Delta P) &= \ell_k(\bar{P}) + \sum_n \left( \left( \frac{\partial \ell_k}{\partial \theta_i} \frac{d\theta_i}{dp_n} + \frac{\partial \ell_k}{\partial \theta_j} \frac{d\theta_j}{dp_n} \right) \Delta p_n + \left( \frac{\partial \ell_k}{\partial v_i} \frac{dv_i}{dp_n} + \frac{\partial \ell_k}{\partial v_j} \frac{dv_j}{dp_n} \right) \Delta p_n \right) \\ &= \ell_k(\bar{P}) + \sum_n \frac{\partial \ell_k}{\partial p_n} \Delta p_n.\end{aligned}\quad (9)$$

The partial derivatives introduced in (8) can be calculated directly from (7):

$$\frac{\partial \ell_k}{\partial \theta_i} = 2g_{ijk} \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j - \phi_{ijk}) \quad (10a)$$

$$\frac{\partial \ell_k}{\partial \theta_j} = -2g_{ijk} \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j - \phi_{ijk}) \quad (10b)$$

This creates a  $K \times N$  matrix  $\mathbf{L}$  of the sensitivity of line losses with respect to voltage angles:

$$[\mathbf{L}]_{kn} = \begin{cases} 2g_{ijk} \frac{\bar{v}_i \bar{v}_j}{a_{ijk}} \sin(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j - \phi_{ijk}), & \text{if } n = i, \\ -2g_{ijk} \frac{\bar{v}_i \bar{v}_j}{a_{ijk}} \sin(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j - \phi_{ijk}), & \text{if } n = j, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

Calculating the total derivatives  $\frac{d\theta_i}{dp_n}$  and  $\frac{d\theta_j}{dp_n}$  will require solutions to network equations. By linearizing (1) and (2), we can use the network equations (3) with a real power injection  $\Delta p_n$  at some node  $n \in \mathcal{N}$  and solve for marginal changes in  $\theta_i$ , and  $\theta_j$  at each branch. The relevant partial derivatives for changes in  $\theta$  are:

$$\frac{\partial p_{ijk}}{\partial \theta_i} = \frac{-\bar{v}_i \bar{v}_j}{a_{ijk}} (b_{ijk} \cos(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j - \phi_{ijk}) - g_{ijk} \sin(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j - \phi_{ijk})), \quad (12a)$$

$$\frac{\partial p_{ijk}}{\partial \theta_j} = \frac{-\bar{v}_i \bar{v}_j}{a_{ijk}} (-b_{ijk} \cos(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j - \phi_{ijk}) + g_{ijk} \sin(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j - \phi_{ijk})). \quad (12b)$$

We construct a  $K \times N$  matrix  $\mathbf{S}$  of the sensitivity of the branch power flows to changes in voltage angles:

$$[\mathbf{S}]_{kn} = \begin{cases} \frac{-\bar{v}_i \bar{v}_j}{a_{ijk}} (b_{ijk} \cos(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j - \phi_{ijk}) - g_{ijk} \sin(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j - \phi_{ijk})), & \text{if } n = i, \\ \frac{-\bar{v}_i \bar{v}_j}{a_{ijk}} (-b_{ijk} \cos(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j - \phi_{ijk}) + g_{ijk} \sin(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j - \phi_{ijk})), & \text{if } n = j, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

Since the network equations are already satisfied at the base point, only the marginal changes need to be balanced. The injection  $d_{p_n}$  is paired with a withdrawal  $w = (w_1, \dots, w_i, \dots, w_N)$  at an arbitrarily chosen reference bus to keep the equations feasible. The reference bus is defined by assigning weights  $w_i$  to each bus  $i \in \mathcal{N}$  such that  $\sum_i w_i = 1$ . The weights are often assigned by the proportion of total load at each bus. The network equations (3) can be used to simultaneously solve for the marginal changes to voltage angle at each node given a marginal injection at node  $n$  and withdrawal at the reference bus. The marginal network equations are:

$$\Delta \bar{p}_i - w_i y = \sum_k \frac{-\bar{v}_i \bar{v}_j}{a_{ijk}} (b_{ijk} \cos(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j - \phi_{ijk}) - g_{ijk} \sin(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j - \phi_{ijk})) (\Delta \theta_i - \Delta \theta_j), \forall i \in \mathcal{N}. \quad (14)$$

The marginal injection  $\Delta \bar{p}_i$  is equal to 1 at bus  $n$  and 0 otherwise. The same amount as the injection may not be feasible to withdraw from the reference bus due to network losses, so we add a slack variable  $y$  for the amount withdrawn. Assuming it exists, the solution to this system of equations is  $\{\Delta \theta_i^* : i \in \mathcal{N}\}$ , and the derivative relating  $\theta_i$  and  $p_n$  is  $\frac{d\theta_i}{dp_n} = \frac{\Delta \theta_i^*}{\Delta \bar{p}_n}$ .

Then we define the loss factor  $\ell_{f_n}$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \ell_{f_n} &:= \sum_k \left( \frac{\partial \ell_k}{\partial \theta_i} \frac{d\theta_i}{dp_n} + \frac{\partial \ell_k}{\partial \theta_j} \frac{d\theta_j}{dp_n} \right) \\ &= \sum_k 2g_{ijk} \frac{\bar{v}_i \bar{v}_j}{a_{ijk}} (\sin(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j - \phi_{ijk})) \left( \frac{\Delta \theta_i^*}{\Delta \bar{p}_n} - \frac{\Delta \theta_j^*}{\Delta \bar{p}_n} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

The result is that each loss factor can be calculated using an AC power flow solution,  $\{\bar{v}_i, \bar{\theta}_i : i \in \mathcal{N}\}$  and solving  $N$  equations with  $N$  unknowns, so  $N^2$  equations in total need to be solved to obtain the full set of loss factors  $\ell_{f_n}$  for all  $n \in \mathcal{N}$ . This derivation can be succinctly described in vector and matrix form:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \mathcal{L} &= \mathbf{L} \Delta \Theta, \\ \Delta P &= \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{S} \Delta \Theta, \\ \mathbf{1}^\top \Delta \mathcal{L} &= \mathbf{1}^\top \mathbf{L} \left( \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{S} \right)^{-1} \Delta P, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbf{L}$  is a  $K \times N$  marginal loss matrix defined by (11),  $\mathbf{A}$  is a  $K \times N$  network-incidence matrix,  $\mathbf{S}$  is a  $K \times N$  marginal branch flow matrix defined by (13), and  $\mathbf{1}$  is a vector of  $K$  ones.  $\Delta \mathcal{L}$ ,  $\Delta P$  and  $\Delta \Theta$  are respectively vectors of marginal changes in line losses ( $K \times 1$ ), nodal real power injections ( $N \times 1$ ), and marginal changes in voltage angle ( $N \times 1$ ).

The loss factors can then be calculated as follows:

$$LF^\top = \mathbf{1}^\top \mathbf{L} \left( \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{S} \right)^{-1} [I - W \mathbf{1}^\top].$$

Then, we can calculate a constant  $\ell^0$  such that the following equation gives a linear approximation of line losses  $\ell$  that is exact at the base point solution,

$$\ell = \ell^0 + LF^\top (P_g - P_d), \quad (16)$$

where  $\ell$  is the total real power losses in the network,  $\ell^0$  is a constant,  $LF$  is the vector of loss factors  $\ell_{f_i}$ , and  $P_g$  is the vector of net real power generation, and  $P_d$  is the vector of real power demands.

Because (16) is linear, it can be easily integrated into electricity market optimization software.

### 2.3 ALTERNATIVE LINE LOSS DERIVATION

Alternatively, a set of loss factors can be derived using a simpler method. This method, described in [56], assumes that all voltages are equal to 1 and approximates the sinusoidal term

$$\cos(\theta_i - \theta_j) \approx 1 - \frac{(\theta_i - \theta_j)^2}{2},$$

which after some substitution will yield a losses as a quadratic function of  $p_{ijk}$  times line resistance  $r_k$ :

$$\ell = \sum_k r_k p_{ijk}^2. \quad (17)$$

This approximation is in fact the second order Taylor series expansion of the cosine function at  $\theta_i - \theta_j = 0$ . Section 5 expands on this by generalizing the base point to values other than zero.

In the DC approximation, line flows  $p_{ijk}$  are determined using shift factors  $t_{(ijk,n)}$  that relate nodal injections to real power flow. This equation takes the form

$$p_{ijk} = \sum_n t_{(ijk,n)} p_n \quad (18)$$

Let  $\bar{p}_n$  be the net injections at the base point solution, and  $\bar{p}_{ijk}$  be calculated by substituting  $\bar{p}_n$  into (18). First, we take a first order Taylor series of (17) at  $\bar{p}_{ijk}$ :

$$\ell = \sum_k (2r_k \bar{p}_{ijk} p_{ijk} - r_{ijk} \bar{p}_{ijk}^2). \quad (19)$$

Then substitute (18):

$$\begin{aligned} \ell &= \sum_k \left( 2r_k \bar{p}_{ijk} \sum_n t_{(ijk,n)} p_n - r_{ijk} \bar{p}_{ijk}^2 \right) \\ &= \sum_n \sum_k (2r_k \bar{p}_{ijk} t_{(ijk,n)}) p_n - \sum_k r_{ijk} \bar{p}_{ijk}^2 \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

This gives the loss function in the same form as (16), so the loss factors can now be defined as:

$$\ell f_n := \sum_k (2r_k \bar{p}_{ijk} t_{(ijk,n)}) \quad (21)$$

The constant  $\ell^0$  can also be defined as (20) would imply, but a more accurate method is to equate (16) to the actual losses at the base point, if known.

## 3 MODEL FORMULATION

To formulate the model, we start from the model from Litvinov [52], used by ISO-NE. Dual variables are indicated by  $[\cdot]$ .

$$\min \quad c(P_g) \quad (22a)$$

$$s.t. \quad \mathbf{1}^\top (P_g - P_d) = \ell \quad [\lambda] \quad (22b)$$

$$\ell = \ell^0 + LF^\top (P_g - P_d) \quad [\sigma] \quad (22c)$$

$$\mathbf{T}(P_g - P_d - D\ell) \leq T_{\max} \quad [\mu] \quad (22d)$$

$$P_{\min} \leq P_g \leq P_{\max} \quad [\alpha_{\min}, \alpha_{\max}] \quad (22e)$$

where  $c(\cdot)$  is a linear or convex cost function; the decision variables are a vector of power generation injections  $P_g$  and total system losses  $\ell$ ; parameters are a vector of power demand withdrawals  $P_d$ , loss function constant  $\ell^0$ , loss factor vector  $LF$ , loss distribution factor vector  $D$ , PTDF matrix  $\mathbf{T}$ , transmission limit vector  $T_{\max}$ , generation output limit vectors  $P_{\min}$  and  $P_{\max}$ , and the dual variables are for the power balance constraint  $\lambda$ , the loss function constraint  $\sigma$ , the transmission constraint  $\mu$ , and the generation output limit constraints  $\alpha_{\min}$  and  $\alpha_{\max}$ .

The only part of the model that has not been discussed at this point is the loss distribution factor  $D$ , an  $(N \times 1)$  vector that allocates line losses into nodal withdrawals.  $D$  is normalized to one, i.e.,  $\mathbf{1}^\top D = 1$ . In later sections, we choose to set the elements of  $D$  for each bus proportional to the line losses in the branches connected to that bus.

Excluding the term  $D\ell$  from (22d) will cause the transmission constraint to violate the superposition principle. The approximations for linear models require the selection of a reference bus which is assumed to be the source (or sink) of all power consumed (or produced). Power flows to and from the reference bus are “summed” using the superposition principle so that the effect of the reference bus gets canceled out in a lossless model. When losses are included, total injections are greater than total withdrawals and there will be more power flowing into the reference bus than out. Loss distribution factors fix this by adding additional “demand” in the approximate location of the line losses. Consequently, total injections will equal total withdrawals, so the superposition principle holds and the changing the reference bus does not affect the solution.

As it turns out, this violation of the superposition principle is also a violation of Kirchoff’s Current Law. An example demonstrating this is in the next section. See reference [52] for more detail.

The dual problem of (22) is given below.

$$\max \quad \lambda \mathbf{1}^\top P_d + \sigma \left( \ell^0 - LF^\top P_d \right) + \mu^\top (T_{\max} + \mathbf{T} P_d) + \alpha_{\min}^\top P_{\min} - \alpha_{\max}^\top P_{\max} \quad (23a)$$

$$s.t. \quad \lambda \mathbf{1} + \sigma LF + \mu^\top \mathbf{T} + \alpha_{\min} - \alpha_{\max} = c \quad [P_g] \quad (23b)$$

$$\lambda + \sigma - \mu^\top T D = 0 \quad [\ell] \quad (23c)$$

$$\mu, \alpha_{\min}, \alpha_{\max} \geq 0 \quad (23d)$$

The constraints from the dual model (23) can be combined in the following expression:

$$\lambda \mathbf{1} + \sigma LF + \mu^\top T = c + \alpha_{\min} - \alpha_{\max} \quad (24)$$

The LHS of the expression (24) is commonly decomposed into three components:

$$\lambda^E := \lambda \mathbf{1}, \quad (25a)$$

$$\lambda^L := \sigma LF, \quad (25b)$$

$$\lambda^C := \mu^\top \mathbf{T}, \quad (25c)$$

$$\Lambda := \lambda^E + \lambda^L + \lambda^C. \quad (25d)$$

where  $\lambda^E$  is the marginal cost of energy at the reference bus,  $\lambda^L$  is the marginal cost of losses, and  $\lambda^C$  is the marginal cost of congestion. Many formulations will ignore or neglect the term  $D\ell$  in  $\lambda^C$ , but this term is close to zero anyway. If the vector  $\Lambda$  is used to remunerate generators, then  $\alpha_{\min}$  and  $\alpha_{\max}$  are vectors of each generator’s losses and profits, respectively.

### 3.1 LOSS DISTRIBUTION FACTORS AND KIRCHOFF’S CURRENT LAW

As stated in the above, loss distribution factors are an important aspect of the DCOPF with losses and help the solution adhere to the so-called superposition principle. This brief section provides an

example which shows that the solution will change based on which reference bus is selected when loss distribution factors are removed from the formulation. Additionally, excluding the loss factors causes the solution to violate KCL at the reference bus.

A detailed look at how losses can be modeled in the DCOPF framework can be found in [14]. In this example, we will use relatively intuitive values for  $D$ , setting each element proportional to the losses on adjacent lines. The notation  $\sum_{k(i)}$  is used to indicate a sum over the subset of branches  $k \in \mathcal{K}$  that are connected to node  $i$ .

$$d_i = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{\sum_{k(i)} \ell_k}{\sum_k \ell_k}$$

New model parameters need to be calculated to perform this analysis. As mentioned previously, the reference bus can be defined by a weighting vector  $W$  which sums to one. For example, to select bus 1 as the reference bus, then the first element of  $W$  is one and the rest are zero. To select a “load-weighted” reference bus, let each element of  $W$  be proportional to the load at each bus. Reference [52] provides a simple way to update parameter values from one reference bus defined by  $W$  to another defined by  $\widehat{W}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{\mathbf{T}} &= \mathbf{T} - \mathbf{T}\widehat{W}\mathbf{1}^\top \\ \widehat{LF} &= (LF - \widehat{W}^\top LF\mathbf{1}) / (1 - \widehat{W}^\top LF) \\ \widehat{\ell}^0 &= \ell^0 / (1 - \widehat{W}^\top LF)\end{aligned}$$

The analysis proceeds as follows. We will compare results of the model formulation (22) with results from a traditional formulation (26), below. The later formulation is equivalent to the former with  $D$  set to zero. We solve both formulations on the the 6-bus network from Wood and Wollenberg that is available in MATPOWER [57]. The analysis was implemented in GAMS based on code available from [58]. We selecting in sequence each of the 6 buses to be the reference bus and then finally selecting a load-weighted reference bus (denoted ‘LW’).

$$\min \quad c(P_g) \tag{26a}$$

$$s.t. \quad \mathbf{1}^\top (P_g - P_d) = \ell \tag{26b} \quad [\lambda]$$

$$\ell = \ell^0 + LF^\top (P_g - P_d) \tag{26c} \quad [\sigma]$$

$$\mathbf{T}(P_g - P_d) \leq T_{\max} \tag{26d} \quad [\mu]$$

$$P_{\min} \leq P_g \leq P_{\max} \tag{26e} \quad [\alpha_{\min}, \alpha_{\max}]$$

First, we look at the resulting power flow values from the transmission constraints (22d) and (26d). As shown in Table 3.1, the formulation with loss distribution factors results in a transmission constraint that is unaffected by changing the reference bus. In contrast, the traditional model without loss distribution factors gives distorted values for power flows on the network. For example, the line with the highest power flow can range from 48.3 MW to 53.1, which represents around 10% of its value.

Secondly, we look at the solution’s adherence to KCL. KCL simply states that the current flowing into a node is equal to the flow out, or in this case it is power instead of current. KCL at each node



Branch MW flows with loss distribution								
Branch (to.from)	Reference Bus						LW	RNG
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
1.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0
1.4	26.1	26.1	26.1	26.1	26.1	26.1	26.1	0.0
1.5	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.1	0.0
2.3	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	0.0
2.4	48.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	0.0
2.5	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	0.0
2.6	23.9	23.9	23.9	23.9	23.9	23.9	23.9	0.0
3.5	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8	0.0
3.6	50.6	50.6	50.6	50.6	50.6	50.6	50.6	0.0
4.5	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0
5.6	-3.8	-3.8	-3.8	-3.8	-3.8	-3.8	-3.8	0.0
Branch MW flows without loss distribution								
Branch (to.from)	Reference Bus						LW	RNG
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
1.2	-0.2	2.9	2.5	1.9	1.9	2.5	2.1	3.2
1.4	24.0	26.2	26.0	27.4	25.9	26.0	26.4	3.4
1.5	19.5	20.9	21.5	20.7	22.2	21.5	21.4	2.7
2.3	-1.7	-2.1	0.6	-1.8	-1.0	-0.4	-1.1	2.7
2.4	48.5	46.4	47.1	51.1	47.8	47.0	48.7	4.6
2.5	19.6	18.9	19.8	19.4	20.9	19.8	20.0	2.0
2.6	23.3	22.9	24.9	23.2	24.1	26.0	24.4	3.2
3.5	24.3	23.8	22.3	24.1	25.1	23.2	24.1	2.7
3.6	50.8	50.9	48.3	50.8	50.7	53.1	51.5	4.8
4.5	2.6	2.6	3.1	1.8	3.7	3.1	2.9	1.9
5.6	-4.1	-3.7	-3.2	-4.0	-4.8	-2.4	-3.7	2.4

Table 3.1: Comparison of power flow in the IEEE 6-bus system with and without loss distribution factors. ‘LW’ is the load-weighted reference bus. ‘RNG’ is the range of values, i.e.  $\max - \min$ .

can be checked the following way. First, the power on each branch  $k$  is calculated.

$$p_{ijk} = \sum_n t_{(ijk,n)} (p_n^g - p_n^d - d_n \ell)$$

Then we calculate the “mismatch” between power flow into and out of each bus  $n$ .

$$KCL_n = p_n^g - p_n^d - \sum_{k(n)} (p_{njk} - p_{ink}) - d_n \ell$$

As an aside, note that  $d_n = 0$  for all  $n$  in the traditional model, so this calculation is general for both models. In the traditional model, KCL is satisfied at all nodes. In the traditional model, there is a mismatch at the reference bus which is equal to the losses approximated by the model, see Table 3.2.

In conclusion, the DCOPT with losses can give a solution that significantly distorts physical laws if it is not formulated properly. One of these distortions is a large amount of uncertainty in the accuracy of power flow on the transmission lines. The other related distortion is that the solution

Bus	Reference Bus						LW
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	6.7						0
2		6.7					0
3			6.7				0
4				6.7			2.2
5					6.7		2.2
6						6.7	2.2
Total	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7

Table 3.2: KCL violations (in MW) in the Traditional model (26).

does not satisfy KCL. When such inaccuracies are present in the dispatch model, operators are forced to operate the grid more conservatively. We believe that more accurate dispatch models will allow operators to operate the grid closer to its physical limits and therefore more efficiently.

## 4 LMPs ON IEEE 300-BUS TEST CASE

This section will demonstrate the importance of initializing the OPF model with a good base point solution when clearing an electricity market. We test three initializations of (22) in particular. Each initialization uses progressively more information from the base point solution. In this case, we use a solution to the ACOPF for the base point. We demonstrate this on the IEEE 300-bus network from the University of Washington test case archive [59], available in MATPOWER [57]. The analysis was implemented in GAMS based on code available from [58].

First, we look at the canonical version of the DCOPF without an approximation for marginal losses. With the distribution factor formulation, this is the same as parameterizing the model with  $LF = \ell^0 = 0$ . The model therefore reduces to being “lossless”, so we compensate this inherent inaccuracy by proportionally increasing demand to account for line losses. That is, if there are  $\ell^*$  losses in the base point solution, then we create a new parameter for demand,  $\tilde{P}_d := P_d (1 + \ell^*/\mathbf{1}^\top P_d)$ . This initialization will be labeled simply ‘DCOPF’ because it has been reduced to the form of the standard ‘lossless’ DCOPF model.

Second, we initialize parameters by the method described in Section 2.3. In this method, the dispatch at the base point solution is used to calculate line flows, and then a quadratic approximation for line losses is used to calculate marginal line losses. Total line losses are calculated to be equal to actual line losses at the base point solution’s dispatch levels. This initialization will be labeled ‘DCOPF-Q’ for its use of the quadratic approximation.

Lastly, we initialize parameters using the method described in Section 2.2. This parameterization uses the voltage angles and magnitudes in the base point solution to accurately calculate marginal losses as a function of nodal injections and withdrawals. In brief, it uses the most information from the base point solution of the three initializations presented here. This initialization will be labeled ‘DCOPF-L’ for DCOPF with losses.

Each of the three model initializations uses the same PTDFs. Since the goal is to analyze the model initializations effect on line loss estimation accuracy, we prefer to hold all other aspects of the model constant. Since we wish to discern aspects of the loss approximation independent of network congestion, the network is not congested.

The comparisons are made with an ACOPF solution to the problem. The ACOPF uses an exact representation of power flow in the OPF problem, and therefore is generally considered a better

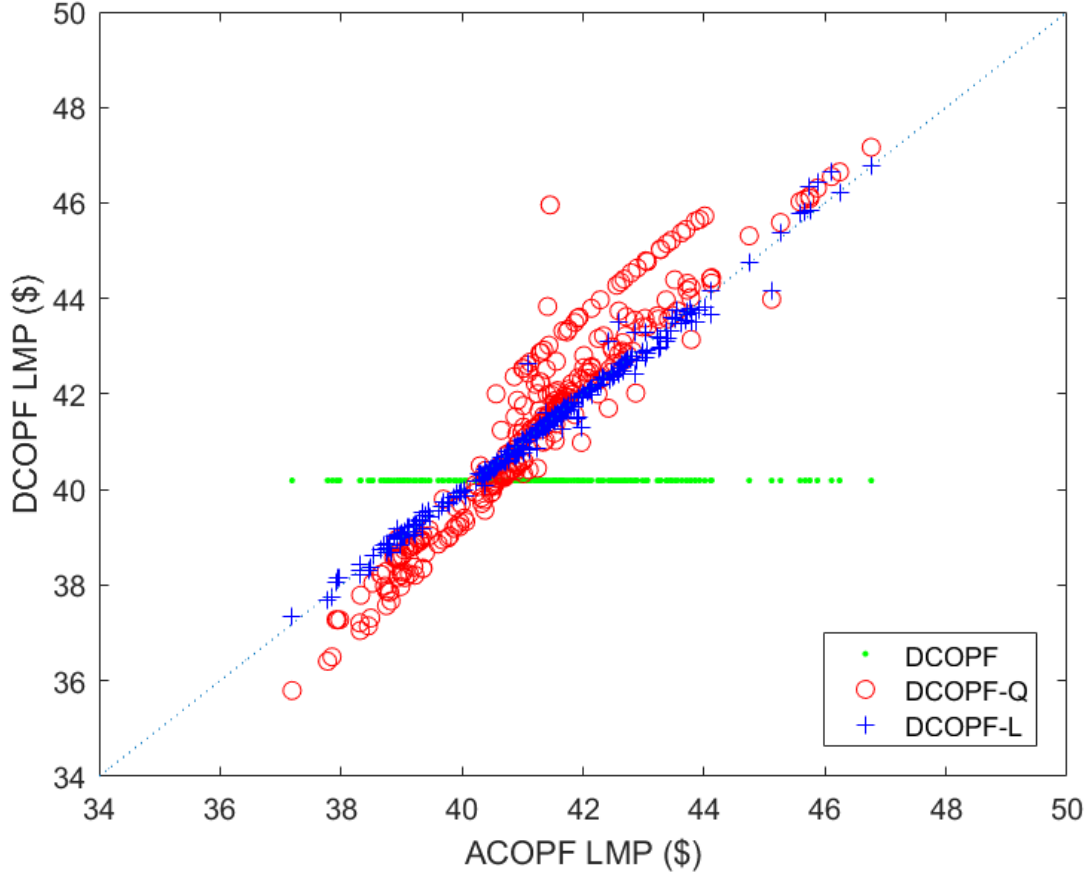


Figure 4.1: LMP comparison of linear models. ‘DCOPF’ LMPs are uniform at all network locations. ‘DCOPF-Q’ and ‘DCOPF-L’ both account for different marginal losses at each node, but ‘DCOPF-Q’ still has significant pricing errors at some locations. No lines are congested in the example.

solution. However, the ACOPF problem is also nonlinear and non-convex, and therefore is too difficult to solve in practice. Nonetheless, it is used here as a benchmark for our DCOPF results. Similar prices in the two models signals that the linear model is a good approximation of marginal losses, while similar objective function values signals that the linear model gives an efficient dispatch solution. ACOPF LMPs are the dual variable of the real power balance constraint in an ACOPF solution, and DCOPF LMPs values are the LMPs from (25).

Figure 4.1 shows that locational information can be an important factor in pricing. In the IEEE 300-bus example problem, we see first that prices from the ACOPF range from \$37.19/MWh to \$46.76/MWh. Considering that transmission losses are only 1.2% of total demand in this example, the total price spread may be surprising to some.

The most simplistic model, ‘DCOPF’, produces only a single price for each node in the system, \$41.19/MWh. It is easy to see how this could create poor behavior in the market. Some generators with costs under \$41.19/MWh but a large effect on system losses could be selected to produce ahead of generators that are apparently more expensive, but are located such that their marginal effect on losses is very low or negative.

The ‘DCOPF-Q’ model does a better job of differentiating locations based on their marginal

Model	LMP MAPE	Cost Deviation	Time (s)
DCOPF	3.77%	-0.172%	0.110
DCOPF-Q	1.54%	-0.114%	0.062
DCOPF-L	0.24%	0.005%	0.047
ACOPF	-	-	0.844

Table 4.1: LMPs and objective function values of various DCOPF formulations compared to their values in an ACOPF solution.

affect on losses, but it also under or overestimates the marginal affect by a large amount at some buses. For example, the largest overestimate is at bus 7049, where the ACOPF LMP is \$41.45 but the DCOPF-Q LMP is \$45.96, or about 10% higher.

The 'DCOPF-L' model performs the best of all three linear models, producing prices that are very similar to the ACOPF LMPs. It's worst mis-estimation is at bus 250, where it overestimates the price by only 3.8%.

Summary comparisons of the three models are given below in Table 4.1. Solution time was measured on a laptop computer with a 2.30 GHz processor and 8GB of RAM. Results are summarized with two statistics defined by,

$$\text{LMP MAPE} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \frac{|\lambda_i^* - \lambda_i^{AC}|}{\lambda_i^{AC}} \times 100\%,$$

$$\text{Cost Deviation} = \frac{c(P_g^*) - c(P_g^{AC})}{c(P_g^{AC})} \times 100\%.$$

The relative performance of the three models will obviously vary depending on the network being studied, but our general belief is that in most cases, the three models will either perform similarly or the DCOPF-L will perform significantly better because it can be tuned to the operating conditions of the network.

## 5 QUADRATIC UPDATE PROCEDURE

In the previous section, the base point solution was in fact an ACOPF solution to the OPF problem. In practice, such a good base point solution is not possible, so here we perform a sensitivity analysis such that the new solution will differ more significantly from the base point. Additionally, we propose a method to update loss factors in such a case. That is, we use differences in the base point solution and the DCOPF solution to update the loss factors. This results in a more accurate representation of marginal losses, which results in more accurate prices and more efficient dispatch, and it can be done without finding a new nonlinear AC power flow solution.

First, we will describe the motivation and procedures to update the loss factor. Motivation comes from Section 2.3 and the fact that  $\ell = \sum_k r_k p_{ijk}^2$  gives a decent approximation for line losses. When linearized, this function splits into linear terms,  $2r_k \bar{p}_{ijk} t_{(ijk,n)} p_n$ , minus some constant terms,  $r_{ijk} \bar{p}_{ijk}^2$ . Therefore, line losses can be updated with new values  $p_{ijk}^*$  each time the model is solved. If  $p_{ijk}^* = \bar{p}_{ijk}$ , then the optimal solution is the same as the base point solution and the model has a good representation of marginal line losses.

However, we have also seen that by itself, a linearization of the quadratic approximation can result in significant pricing errors (described in Section 4). We therefore wish to combine the quadratic approach with the more accurate loss factor parameterization in Section 2.2. We will

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**Algorithm 1** “Zero-Centered” Quadratic Update

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**Require:**  $t_{(ijk,n)}, d_n, r_k, \bar{p}_n^g, \bar{p}_n^d, \bar{\ell}$ 

- 1:  $\bar{p}_{ijk} \leftarrow \sum_n t_{(ijk,n)} (\bar{p}_n^g - \bar{p}_n^d - d_n \bar{\ell})$   $\triangleright \forall k \in \mathcal{K}$
  - 2:  $\bar{\ell} \leftarrow \sum_k r_{ijk} \bar{p}_{ijk}^2$
  - 3:  $\ell f_n \leftarrow \sum_k 2r_k \bar{p}_{ijk} t_{(ijk,n)}$   $\triangleright \forall i \in \mathcal{N}$
  - 4:  $\ell^0 \leftarrow \bar{\ell} - \sum_n \ell f_n (\bar{p}_n^g - \bar{p}_n^d)$
  - 5: **while** convergence **do**
  - 6:     **solve** (22)
  - 7:      $\bar{\ell} \leftarrow \sum_k r_{ijk} (p_{ijk}^*)^2$
  - 8:      $\ell f_n \leftarrow \sum_k 2r_k p_{ijk}^* t_{(ijk,n)}$   $\triangleright \forall i \in \mathcal{N}$
  - 9:      $\ell^0 \leftarrow \bar{\ell} - \sum_n \ell f_n (p_n^{g*} - p_n^d)$
  - 10: **end while**
- 

start with the more accurate parameterization and then update it as if the linear and constant terms were functions of  $p_{ijk}$ .

### 5.1 ALGORITHM DESCRIPTION

An update procedure assuming Equation (20) is given in Algorithm 1. However this is just the same quadratic loss approximation as before, which was shown to be less accurate than our proposed method. Because it is based on a second order Taylor series expansion of the cosine terms with a “zero” base point, this algorithm will be called the “Zero-Centered” Quadratic Update.

Our proposed method is based off a first order Taylor series expansion, which is a linear function. To find a better quadratic approximation than this “zero-centered” approach, we find a second order Taylor series expansion around a new operating point. The  $n^{th}$  order Taylor series approximation of a function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  at a base point  $\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  can be written as:

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{\nabla^k f(\bar{x})}{k!} (x - \bar{x})^k$$

Applying this to line losses as a function of power flows,  $\ell(P_t)$ , we have the first order approximation:

$$\begin{aligned} \ell(P_t) &\approx \ell(\bar{P}_t) + \nabla \ell(\bar{P}_t) (P_t - \bar{P}_t) \\ &= \ell^0 + \nabla \ell(\bar{P}_t) \mathbf{T} (P_g - P_d) \end{aligned}$$

This is a rephrasing of the methodology in Section 2.2, and clearly we have  $LF = \nabla \ell(\bar{P}_t) \mathbf{T}$ . The following would need to be calculated to extend this to a second order approximation.

$$\ell(P_t) \approx \ell(\bar{P}_t) + \nabla \ell(\bar{P}_t) (P_t - \bar{P}_t) + \frac{1}{2} (P_t - \bar{P}_t)^\top \nabla^2 \ell(\bar{P}_t) (P_t - \bar{P}_t)$$

Calculating the Hessian  $\nabla^2 \ell(P_t)$  could present some difficulty. However, the off-diagonals of this matrix are zero, so we need only to compute  $\ell_k''(p_{ijk})$ . The losses on a particular branch should not depend on the power flow across other branches.

Next, we will assume that the function takes a specific form. It should be similar to (17), so we try the following:

$$\ell_k = \gamma_k (p_{ijk} + \xi_k)^2 + \eta_k. \quad (27)$$

Different values of  $\gamma$ ,  $\xi_k$  and  $\eta_k$  can give us any quadratic function, so this form can be assumed without loss of generality. Unfortunately, the initial loss function does not provide enough information to calculate all three of these coefficients. Instead, the following is derived from (7):

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d\ell_k}{dp_n} &= \frac{d\ell_k}{d\theta} \frac{d\theta}{dp_n} \\
&= 2g_{ijk} \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j - \phi_{ijk}) \frac{d\theta}{dp_n} \\
&= 2r_k \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} \frac{1}{x_k} p_{ijk} \frac{d\theta}{dp_n} \\
&= 2r_k \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} p_{ijk} t_{(ijk,n)}
\end{aligned}$$

This gives good reason to believe that  $\gamma_k = r_k \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}}$  is a good guess, and it also happens to give the same quadratic approximation as before if voltages are equal to their nominal values and the turns ratio is 1. Now we proceed to find  $\xi_k$  and  $\eta_k$ . The first order linearization of (27) simplifies to:

$$\ell_k \approx 2r_k \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} (\bar{p}_{ijk} + \xi_k) p_{ijk} + r_k \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} (\xi_k^2 - \bar{p}_{ijk}^2) + \eta_k$$

To put this in the same terms as (16), define  $\ell f_{kn}$ ,  $\ell_k^0$ ,  $\ell f_n$  and  $\ell^0$  as:

$$\begin{aligned}
\ell f_{kn} &:= 2r_k \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} (\bar{p}_{ijk} + \xi_k) t_{(ijk,n)}, \\
\ell_k^0 &:= r_k \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} (\xi_k^2 - \bar{p}_{ijk}^2) + \eta_k, \\
\ell f_n &:= \sum_k \ell f_{kn}, \\
\ell^0 &:= \sum_k \ell_k^0.
\end{aligned}$$

The initial  $\ell f_{kn}$  and  $\ell_k^0$  are known, so solve for  $\xi_k$  and  $\eta_k$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
\xi_k &= \frac{\ell f_{kn} a_{ijk}}{2r_k v_i v_j t_{(ijk,n)}} - \bar{p}_{ijk}, \\
\eta_k &= \ell_k^0 - r_k \frac{v_i v_j}{a_{ijk}} (\xi_k^2 - \bar{p}_{ijk}^2)
\end{aligned}$$

## 5.2 RESULTS

We provide results for implementing Algorithm 2 on a selection of test cases from the University of Washington test case archive [59] as well as few other that are available in MATPOWER [57]. The analysis was implemented in GAMS based on code available from [58].

Algorithm 2 can be implemented to approximate a second order Taylor series expansion of the loss function. One thing to note is that the assignment of  $\xi_k$  requires a restriction on the index  $n$  for  $\ell f_{kn}$  and  $t_{(ijk,n)}$ . The selection of  $n$  will be a source of numerical errors, so it should be chosen to minimize roundoff errors in  $\ell f_{kn}$  and  $t_{(ijk,n)}$ . For that reason,  $n = \arg \max_m (|t_{(ijk,m)}| : m \in \{i, j\})$  will produce satisfactory results.

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**Algorithm 2** Generic Quadratic Update
 

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**Require:**  $t_{(ijk,n)}, d_n, r_k, a_{ijk}, \ell f_i, \ell^0, \bar{p}_n^g, \bar{p}_n^d, \bar{\ell}, \bar{v}_i$

```

1:  $\bar{p}_{ijk} \leftarrow \sum_n t_{(ijk,n)} (\bar{p}_n^g - \bar{p}_n^d - d_n \bar{\ell})$   $\triangleright \forall k \in \mathcal{K}$ 
2:  $\gamma_k \leftarrow r_k \bar{v}_i \bar{v}_j / a_{ijk}$   $\triangleright \forall k \in \mathcal{K}$ 
3:  $\xi_k \leftarrow \ell f_{kn} / 2\gamma_k t_{(ijk,n)} - \bar{p}_{ijk}$   $\triangleright n = \arg \max_m (|t_{(ijk,m)}| : m \in \{i, j\}), \forall k \in \mathcal{K}$ 
4:  $\eta_k \leftarrow \ell_k^0 - \gamma_k (\xi_k^2 - \bar{p}_{ijk}^2)$   $\triangleright \forall k \in \mathcal{K}$ 
5: while convergence do
6:   solve (22)
7:    $\bar{\ell} \leftarrow \sum_k \gamma_k (p_{ijk}^* + \xi_k)^2 + \eta_k$ 
8:    $\ell f_n \leftarrow 2 \sum_k \gamma_k (p_{ijk}^* + \xi_k) t_{(ijk,n)}$   $\triangleright \forall i \in \mathcal{N}$ 
9:    $\ell^0 \leftarrow \bar{\ell} - \sum_n \ell f_n (p_n^{g*} - p_n^d)$ 
10: end while

```

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Another numerical issue can occur when calculating  $\xi_k$  if  $\gamma_k$  is very small or zero due to very low resistance on the line. In this case, we set a tolerance value  $\varepsilon_\gamma$  and let  $\xi_k = \gamma_k = 0$  if  $\gamma_k < \varepsilon_\gamma$ .

Each iteration in this SLP solves an approximation of a nonlinear program (NLP). This NLP is the same formulation as (22) except that the constraint (22c) is replaced with (27). Since this constraint is an equality instead of a greater-than-or-equal-to constraint, the problem is nonlinear and nonconvex, so a locally optimal solution is not guaranteed to be the globally optimal solution. However, we would like to know if the SLP is converging to the globally optimal solution, so we solve a problem with the following relaxation of (27):

$$\ell \geq \sum_k (\gamma_k (p_{ijk} + \xi_k)^2 + \eta_k).$$

This relaxation makes the problem convex, and therefore any locally optimal solution is also a globally optimal solution. It can also be solved as a QCP instead of an NLP. Furthermore, if this constraint holds at equality in the optimal solution, then it is also the solution to the NLP version of the problem, and this was true for all cases solved. We will use solutions to this problem for comparison to solutions in the SLP, and will refer to it as the ‘DCOPF-QCP’.

A convergence criterion in the SLP can be set to anything that fits the modeler’s needs. Most commonly, this will be some deviation calculation of the variables  $p_n^g$  or  $p_{ijk}$  from one iteration to the next. Since this algorithm is not guaranteed to converge, a maximum limit on the number of iterations is also advised.

The results for a few potential convergence criteria are displayed in Figure 5.1. These results were obtained by uniformly increasing demand parameters by 5% compared to the base point solution. The metric used to measure convergence is the standard  $L_2$  norm, defined as the square root of the sum of squared differences. We compare the solution and output vectors  $P_t, P_g$  and  $\Lambda$  with values from the previous iteration. The  $h^{th}$  iterative values from (22) are denoted by  $P_t^h, P_g^h$  and  $\Lambda^h$ . The first three graphs in Figure 5.1 measure convergence with respect to the previous iteration, while the last graph measures convergence with respect to the objective function of the DCOPF-QCP.

In theory, we are trying to find a fixed point  $x^*$  such that  $F(x^*) = x^*$ , where  $F(\cdot)$  is the optimization problem (22) and  $x$  is the parameters of the loss function. The output of the optimization is certainly non-differentiable and may not even be continuous, so even the existence of such a fixed point is difficult or impossible to prove.

In our sample of test problems, we see that some appear to converge to the NLP solution, others cycle around solutions near the NLP solution, and yet others cycle around some other solution.

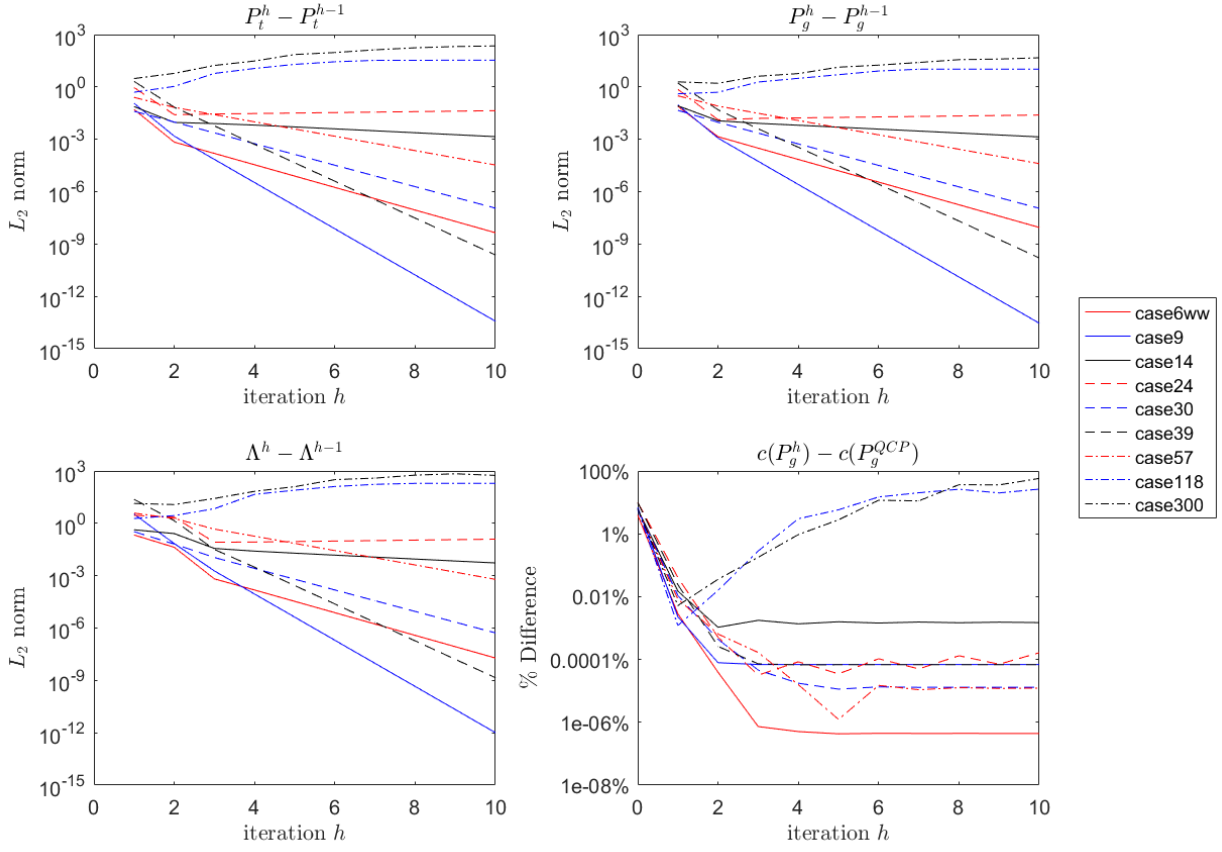


Figure 5.1:  $L_2$  convergence for Algorithm 2. Convergence is measured here with respect to the previous iteration in the first three graphs and with respect to the DCOPF-QCP in the last graph. These results were obtained by uniformly increasing demand parameters by 5% compared to the base point solution.

We notice in the results that the iterative solutions for the 118- and 300-bus networks diverge from the solution to the DCOPF-QCP. In general, SLP methods are not guaranteed to converge, so it is not a total surprise that we do not see convergence in 100% of the test problems. In the worst case, however, SLP solutions that diverge can simply be discarded. This would result in using the same model results as those used currently.

## 6 CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

The DCOPF is at the core of many applications in today's electricity markets. The fact that it can be solved as an LP makes this problem formulation computationally advantageous, but this comes at the expense of approximating the physics of power flow. Therefore, we believe that it is important for DCOPF implementations to use the best approximations that the linear problem formulation will allow.

Accuracy of the loss approximation should not be ignored. A feasible base point can provide information about voltage angles and voltage magnitudes that are omitted from traditional DCOPF formulations, and this additional information about the current operating point can change the calculation for marginal line losses. In turn, changes in the calculation for marginal line losses can



have a significant effect on prices.

In addition to an accurate calculation for marginal line losses, we have discussed two other important aspects of model accuracy. First is the inclusion of loss distribution factors in the transmission constraint of the model formulation. Excluding loss distribution factors from the model distorts power flows and leads to a violation of KCL in the solution. Despite this problem, loss distribution factors are ignored in many DCOPF formulations that include losses.

Lastly, we provided an algorithm that can be used to improve the accuracy of the loss function when the solution to the DCOPF-L is significantly different than the base point solution. This update procedure assumes a quadratic loss function that is exact at the base point solution. The DCOPF-L's loss function can then be continuously updated until it converges to a solution. This may lead to significant differences in prices when the base point solution materially differs from the optimal solution to DCOPF-L. If this were not a common occurrence, then there would be no reason to optimize dispatch.

The analysis presented in this paper can be of use to many researchers and practitioners interested in modeling electricity markets. Inaccuracy of the dispatch model's marginal terms can have a significant effect on how much each resource is dispatched and how much they are remunerated, so it is important to limit this inaccuracy as much as possible. However, even though some inaccuracy will be present in any model that linearizes an inherently nonlinear process, the methods explained in this paper can be used to lessen the effect of these inaccuracies.

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